

NSC BRIEFING

4 February 1958

ANTI-WESTERN TREND IN YEMEN

- I. Yemen's anti-Western trend will probably speed up now that Crown Prince Badr, main booster of Sino-Soviet bloc aid, has returned from Eastern Europe, Moscow and Peiping, where he concluded new diplomatic, aid and trade agreements.
- A. Yemen and the USSR signed "a number of economic and trade agreements" during the recent two-week visit to Yemen of Soviet ambassador Kiselev, who resides in Cairo.
1. Agreements presumably include a previously offered 5-year economic development loan, which the Soviets valued at \$35,000,000.
 2. Yemen has also been seeking additional military equipment, including jet fighters, and bloc personnel to operate military aircraft and armored vehicles.

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- B. Success of the Soviet visit indicates that King Saud, who has been increasingly concerned over the trend in Yemen, failed in efforts to discourage the Imam from yielding still further.

- II. Meanwhile, Yemen government thwarted a new conspiracy by northern tribesmen against the Imam on 22 January.

- A. Bazaar rumors that plotters supported by British and US suggests that the government may exploit the incident to reduce further Western influence in Yemen, and justify turning

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- B. Yemen has used the incident to request the recall of the British charge.
- C. Relations with Britain may be expected to deteriorate further, with more serious Yemeni attacks along the Aden Protectorate frontier and spreading subversion within the Protectorate, where desertions among British-led native troops have increased to 20 a month.

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